

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

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“INCREASED HARVEST LEVEL GOOD FOR KARRI FOREST”

The WA Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia applauds the decision by the Environment Minister, Bill Marmion, to approve an increase in harvest of low grade karri from State forest, from 117,000 to 160,000 m³ per year.

WA IFA chair John Clarke said “this is a positive move which will help ensure the long term health, vigour, appearance and productive capacity of our regrowth karri forests.”

The decision was supported by the Environmental Protection Authority and the Conservation Commission.

The IFA believes that opposition to the decision from some groups such as the WA Forest Alliance is unfounded and demonstrates their misunderstanding of karri forest ecology and their philosophical objection to harvesting of any trees from native forests.

“The Minister has rightly allowed increased volumes to be recovered from necessary thinning operations” said Mr Clarke. “Revenue from the thinning operations helps finance other forest management programmes including essential fire control. The alternative to commercial thinning is to either not do the thinning and allow trees to die, or do the thinning and leave the cut trees on the forest floor to contribute to fire hazard. Neither alternative is sensible environmentally or economically.”

The IFA supports sensible forest management decisions which provide positive outcomes for our forests and WA communities.

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